Mr Paul Mampilli.—Is there any record to show that these were the reasons which influenced the Government in rejecting these applications?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—In many cases I have records.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Records of what nature? Is it in the nature of reports from the Inspectors?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Not always. Some are confidential demi-official letters. They have also the same delicacy like me.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Letters from whom?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Letters from officers who make the inquiry, whether there is any necessity for the schools;

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Para (4) of the Report. In view of that statement, do the Government still maintain that, in general the demand for fresh schools is made on such and such grounds as are alleged here?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—In many cases requests for schools which are found to be unnecessary are made because of these motives.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—In the majority of the cases are they so?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Were they from individuals or institutions?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I want notice, but I think the majority are from individuals.

Principle of seniority among District Registrars.

319. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what was the principle of seniority followed in making confirmations in the Registrars' line prior to 18th Vrischigam 1108;

(b) in particular, what was the principle followed in confirming Messrs. P. Krishna Menon and Isaac Mathai in preference to Messrs. A. Krishna Menon and Mohamed, who had more service;

(c) earlier still what was the principle followed in settling the question of seniority between Messrs. M. H. Krishna Ayyar and Paily;

(d) has there been any change of the principle followed in the above cases, in making the confirmations of Messrs. N. Ramankutty and K. Kuruvilla;

(e) if so, what was the reason for the change?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Qualification and longer continuous acting service as District Registrar.

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(b) The same principle.

(c) The principle laid down in S. O. No. 17.

(d) Yes; to some extent. According to amendment dated 4th November 1932 to S. O. No. 16 the whole acting service of a person whether continuous or broken in all the departments together is the criterion to fix seniority among acting hands.

(e) It was thought this will be a more equitable rule.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—(a), (c), and (d). So there were many changes in the course of a few months. Is it the policy of Government to make these changes in order to suit individuals whose cases they are to consider ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—This is not to suit particular individuals.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—When does the Government consider these matters?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Government have been considering these amendments from about January 1931.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know who was first promoted after this amendment was introduced?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—As a matter of fact the amendment came into consideration in connection with certain petitions put in by clerks in the Huzur Office one or one-and-a-half years ago.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is this amended rule strictly followed subsequent to this order ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Have there not been violations of this rule?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The rule is in force. Violations are violations of the rule. I do not know whether there have been violations.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Probably there are exceptions for the rule ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not know.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—(d) Has it reference to the grade in which they are, or is it irrespective of the grade?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It has reference to the grades. Suppose there are 5 persons in the same grade. When one of the places fall vacant and when it becomes possible to confirm one, then the seniority among the five hands has to be fixed and to decide that seniority this principle is followed.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Was not Mr. Warriar senior in service to all others?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—He was not.

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Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—When was this Warriar appointed acting Registrar?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—He may have been appointed a few months earlier. But all these people were in the same grade as acting Registrars when the time for confirmation came. The total service put in by them was therefore counted for confirmation.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—At the time of confirmation does the Government take into consideration the period for which they had acted in the grade?

Rama Varmha Tampuran —Not in the grade alone, but all the service.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Suppose a Munsiff is acting and at the time of confirmation one of the clerks passes the B. L. examination. Will that clerk be confirmed as Munsiff under the rule?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—One is a Munsiff and the other is a clerk. Here the two are Registrars.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Was not Mr. Warriar a Registrar while the others were clerks?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not contest that.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is he not therefore senior to them?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Not according to Standing Order 16.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is not seniority considered with reference to the period for which he was acting?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The amendment to S. O. 16 is, if there are a number of persons acting in the same grade, and if a post falls vacant permanently, then that man will be confirmed, who has put in the longest acting service in the whole of the Government service.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—That is what I say—the illustration that I put of the case of a Munsiff and a clerk. Will you take into consideration the whole service that he has put in under the Government or in that particular grade only?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I said the whole of the Government service.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Then does not the present rule come to this, that a clerk will supersede a Munsiff?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It won't.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—Am I to understand that if a clerk is appointed as a Munsiff and he was in the post for one month, and if there is a Munsiff who has put in four years of

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service as Munsiff and the clerk had more than four years service, will the clerk be confirmed, in preference to the Munsiff who has put in four years of service as Munsiff?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The answer is, there is no clerk to be confirmed in that case.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Are these rules original or copies from anywhere else?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not know whether there is any rule corresponding to this in any other place; but we did not copy it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Does the Government change the Standing Orders very often?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—When there is need.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—(e) It is said that it would be more equitable. May I know how?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Because there may have been people who had put in longer service. A person may have acted in 1101 and could not have got another chance. In the meanwhile another man may have been appointed in 1102 or 1103. In such cases, the man who has acted before would be prejudicially affected. To protect against these and similar other cases this rule is introduced.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—I want to make that point clear. Suppose a clerk who had put in 10 years service was appointed acting Munsiff for one month and suppose there was another person appointed from the bar as acting Munsiff and he was there for four years. At the time of confirmation, who will be confirmed?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not think any purpose will be served by continuing to answer such hypothetical questions. I can very well say that if the person who became the Munsiff later and if both were acting Munsiffs, then according to the rule, the man who has the longest service in all the departments together will be confirmed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the standing at the Bar be taken into consideration?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No.

Grants of advance increments to officers in 1107 and 1108.

320. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar**—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a list of persons who have been given more than the ordinary increments in the years 1107 and 1108 and how much was given in the case of each?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—A statement containing the available information is appended. (*Appendix VI*).

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